



What is a School Resource Officer

HOW CAN AN SRO BE A RESOURCE
TO YOUR SCHOOL?

SRO Defined

“A career Law Enforcement Officer, with sworn authority, deployed in community-oriented policing, and assigned by the employing police department or agency to work in collaboration with the schools and community-based organizations”

What is the purpose of an SRO?



**Who's
askin'?**

What is the purpose of an SRO?

- ▶ To protect the public (i.e. students, staff, parents and other patrons)
- ▶ To enforce laws
- ▶ To assist in critical incidents
- ▶ To deter violent behaviors or criminal activity
- ▶ To provide advise and guidance to school leaders

US Code and Statutes

- ▶ (A) to address crime and disorder problems, gangs, and drug activities affecting or occurring in or around an elementary or secondary school;
- ▶ (B) to develop or expand crime prevention efforts for students;
- ▶ (C) to educate likely school-age victims in crime prevention and safety;
- ▶ (D) to develop or expand community justice initiatives for students;
- ▶ (E) to train students in conflict resolution, restorative justice, and crime awareness;
- ▶ (F) to assist in the identification of physical changes in the environment that may reduce crime in or around the school; and
- ▶ (G) to assist in developing school policy that addresses crime and to recommend procedural changes.

Tactical “moment”

- ▶ This year did you have opportunities for the previously listed items to occur?
- ▶ Would involving an SRO have benefited in these situations?

Sometimes the best part of
my job is that my chair
swivels.



What are the limitations of an SRO?

- ▶ SROs are considered Law Enforcement Officers
 - MOST OF THE TIME –
- ▶ 4th Amendment grants the right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures
- ▶ 5th Amendment grants the right to due process of the law

... Most of the time

- ▶ SROs can be considered part of the school administration as long as they have established reasons for a person to believe the officer has been integrated into the school administrative staff

Tactical “moment”

- ▶ What do you think would determine if an SRO can be considered part of school administrative staff?
 - ▶ *We will talk about this in a couple of slides... list some answers and we will see how you did.*

What are the limitations of an SRO?

▶ **Law Enforcement Searches must be legal and meet certain criteria**

- ▶ Consent (of an adult or juvenile of legal capacity)
- ▶ Warrant
- ▶ Probable Cause
- ▶ Exigent Circumstances

What are the limitations of an SRO?

- ▶ Due process of the law includes not having to incriminate one's self during questioning or trial

New Jersey v. T.L.O.

- ▶ Relaxed standard for Educator's search
- ▶ When “that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school.”

What are the limitations of an SRO?

- ▶ Questioning a student
 - ▶ With a Parent or without a parent
 - ▶ With School Staff or without School Staff

Factors involved in determining officer's limitations

- ▶ The specific duties of the officer, including the officer's daily activities.
- ▶ The officer's interactions with students.
- ▶ Any specialized training the officer has received.
- ▶ Any agreements between the law enforcement agency and board of education about the SRO program.
- ▶ Any policies in regard to the SRO program.

Factors involved in determining officer's limitations

- ▶ Who pays the officer's salary.
- ▶ The officer's direct supervisor(s).
- ▶ What classes (if any) the officer teaches.
- ▶ What topics (if any) on which the officer lectures.
- ▶ What topics (if any) on which the officer counsels students.
- ▶ Whether the officer is in uniform and/or armed.

School Policy and LEO Policy

- ▶ What does the officer's policy say?
 - ▶ What does School Policy say?
 - ▶ What is the Chief or Sheriff willing to allow?
 - ▶ What is the principal willing to allow?
-
- ▶ What are the parents (as a whole) going to allow?

What can my SRO do for me?

► What do you
want them to
do?



What can my SRO do for me?

**What is the
officer
willing to
do for you?**



Any SROs in the room?



To The SROs... Ask Yourself

- ▶ Do I like working with children?
- ▶ Do I like to play at recess?
- ▶ How are my PR Skills?
- ▶ How are my secretary skills?
- ▶ How are my maintenance skills?
- ▶ How are my janitorial skills?
- ▶ How are my counseling skills?
- ▶ How are my cheerleading skills?
- ▶ How are my substitute teaching skills?

Willingness is the key to Ability

- ▶ **The more you show your administration you are willing to do, the more they will ask you to do.**

Willingness is the key to Ability

- ▶ Ask questions, understand routines of the school and how to help
- ▶ Make it known that you are available to give advice/input
- ▶ Enjoy the kids

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Tactical “moment”

- ▶ What is your relationship with your SROs and what do you want to improve upon?

Tactical “moment”

- ▶ What steps do you have to take to make those changes happen?